

South Carolina State University Scholarship Program for Nuclear Engineering and Science

Executive Summary:

The South Carolina State University Nuclear Engineering, Radiochemistry, and Health Physics Programs are applying for a two-year undergraduate scholarship grant from the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission. The grant will be used to provide tuition and book scholarships (in varying amounts as needed) to ten (10) high potential undergraduate students majoring in Nuclear Engineering, Radiochemistry and Health Physics for up to two years. Since its inception in 2001, the Nuclear Engineering Program has focused on producing minority nuclear engineers. The program has produced thirteen (13) graduates to date, with seven additional students scheduled to graduate in May 2011. The program has stabilized at about 45 students, ninety six per cent of whom are African American. Nearly half of the current students are female. The Nuclear Engineering program received full ABET-EAC accreditation in August 2008. The Radiochemistry program, initiated in 2005, has now produced seven graduates, six of whom are minority females. In May 2008, South Carolina State University began a Health Physics option within its Physics department and produced its first graduate in May 2009. Two additional graduates, both minority females, will complete this program in 2011. South Carolina State University recently teamed with Orangeburg-Calhoun Technical College to form a joint program to train Radiation Control Technologists in a USNRC funded initiative.

All of the above programs are designed to address the critical skills needs in the U.S. for persons trained and skilled in the nuclear field, especially in the resurgent nuclear power industry and in federal defense-related facilities.

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